

Message Text

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15

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AEC-05 SCI-03 FEA-01 ACDA-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-03 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-07 RSC-01

DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-04 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-03 COME-00

FPC-01 SS-14 DRC-01 /086 W

----- 077191

R 101951Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4745

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3346

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG TECH CA

SUBJECT: PICKERING CANDU REACTOR LEAK

1. CANADIAN MEDIA HAS GIVEN FAIRLY BROAD COVERAGE TO OCTOBER 8 ONTARIO HYDRO NEWS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING DISCLOSURES THAT RADIOACTIVE HEAVY WATER HAD LEAKED FROM FUEL CHANNELS AT THE PICKERING GENERATING STATION.

2. ONTARIO HYDRO STATED THAT LEAKS WHICH BEGAN AUGUST 10 AND CONTINUED FOR ABOUT SIX WEEKS HAVE PRESENTED NO DANGER AND THAT INCIDENT WAS "BLESSING IN DISGUISE" BECAUSE "IT DEMONSTRATES THE MAINTAINABILITY OF THE CANDU REACTOR SYSTEM."

3. WHILE CBC SUGGESTED THAT IF ACCIDENT WAS RESULT OF DESIGN FAULT IT COULD BE HARMFUL FOR CANDU'S FUTURE, ENERGY MINISTER MACDONALD IS REPORTED TO HAVE SAID THAT THE GENERATOR SHUT-DOWN IS UNLIKELY TO AFFECT FOREIGN SALES OF CANDU REACTORS. ONTARIO HYDRO ALSO REPORTEDLY DOES NOT CONSIDER THE LEAKS TO BE MAJOR PROBLEM AND, THE PRESS REPORTS, NO INITIATIVE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY HYDRO TO NOTIFY ITS

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COUNTERPARTS IN INDIA AND PAKISTAN THAT HAVE PURCHASED

CANDU REACTORS.

4. WHILE HYDRO IS CHIDED FOR NOT HAVING RELEASED DETAILS OF THE PROBLEM SOONER, A PICKERING STATION SPOKESMAN CLAIMS THAT MANY GROUPS, INCLUDING FOREIGN GOVERNMENT REPS, HAVE TOURED THE PLANT SINCE THE GENERATOR WAS SHUT DOWN AND ALL HAD BEEN TOLD ABOUT THE LEAKS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WATER POLLUTION, NUCLEAR SAFETY, NUCLEAR REACTORS, HEAVY WATER
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Draft Date: 10 OCT 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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30 JUN 2005

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005